

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

February 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Local Workforce Planning Section

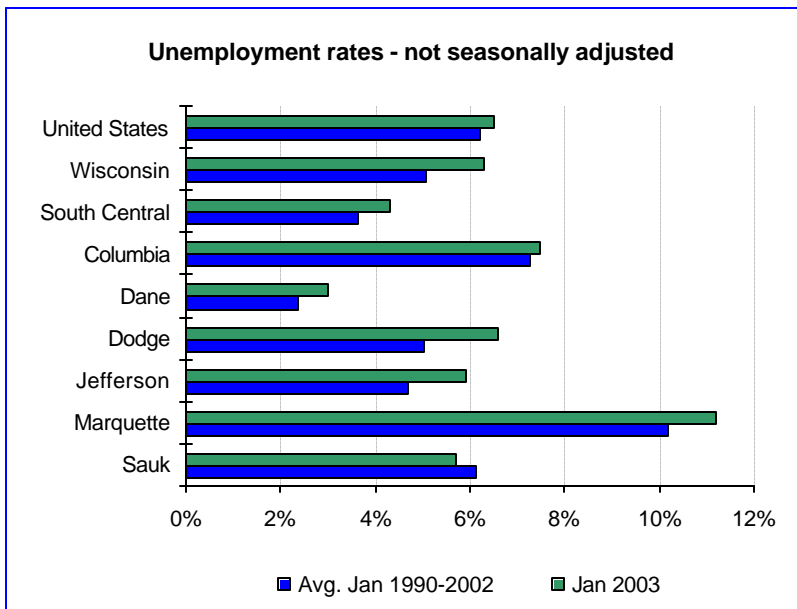
Revisions and recoding blur the picture — separately, commuting data recently released

Two issues complicate this month's labor force and employment figures: revisions and recoding. Each month the Bureau of Labor Statistics and partners such as the Department of Workforce Development use surveys and unemployment insurance reports to estimate how many employed and unemployed people reside in each county. When first released, these estimates are preliminary because more information about the survey month becomes available after the release date, and preliminary estimates are revised.

This year, revised unemployment rate estimates were generally higher than preliminary estimates. Wisconsin's average unemployment rate estimate for 2002 rose from 5.2 percent (preliminary) to 5.5 percent (revised). South Central Wisconsin counties tended to bump up three to four tenths of a percentage point except Dodge County (six tenths) and Marquette (five tenths).

The chart above compares January 2003 unemployment rates to the average of all January rates from 1990 to the newly-revised 2002 rates. The nation, the state and five of this region's six counties remain above their average unemployment

rates. On a brighter note, the chart on the second page shows that unemployment rate increases for January 2003 were generally smaller than they typically are, except Dodge County which matched its usual increase and Jefferson, where the unemployment rate increased slightly faster than usual.



A separate issue will complicate economic analysis for some time to come. Employment-by-industry figures are no longer available in their old categories (Standard Industry Classification) that this publication and its predecessors used for many years. The new categories (North American Classification System) use some similar category titles, but the businesses referred to are not necessarily the same. While SIC categorized establishments by what good or service they produced, NAICS categorizes them based on how they add value. For

example, some elements of the printing industry remain in the "manufacturing" category (because they engage in the physical production of printed material) while other elements of the printing industry moved to the new "information services" category (because they spend more time gathering and editing information before it is published).

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force*	3,065,200	60,500	61,300	444,600	6,700	9,900	28,400	930	780	283,600	2,300	7,300
Employed	2,873,500	27,600	58,600	425,400	2,700	9,800	26,300	470	830	275,000	800	7,100
Unemployed	191,700	32,900	2,700	19,200	4,000	70	2,100	470	-60	8,600	1,520	210
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	1.0	0.0	4.3	0.8	-0.1	7.5	1.5	-0.4	3.0	0.5	0.0

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force*	46,100	1,060	-40	42,500	900	320	7,700	310	270	36,300	1,190	1,230
Employed	43,100	390	280	40,000	200	120	6,800	120	220	34,200	750	1,240
Unemployed	3,100	670	-320	2,500	700	200	860	190	60	2,100	440	-10
Unemployment rate (%)	6.6	1.3	-0.7	5.9	1.5	0.4	11.2	2.0	0.3	5.7	1.0	-0.3

* Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us

In short, even a NAICS category whose title is identical to a SIC category title does not refer to the same group of establishments. Even if NAICS had not created entirely new categories and eliminated some categories used by SIC, categories with significant overlap (like "manufacturing") are not directly comparable from SIC data to NAICS data. Efforts to recode metropolitan counties' SIC data into the NAICS format are underway, but it is not known when this will conclude or whether resources will allow for the recoding of non-metropolitan county data past 2001 and 2002.

Until pre-recession data is available, this indefinite transition period presents significant challenges, especially when attempting to compare the current month to previous months and previous years. The NAICS data from 2001 and 2002 is helpful, but provides little insight on

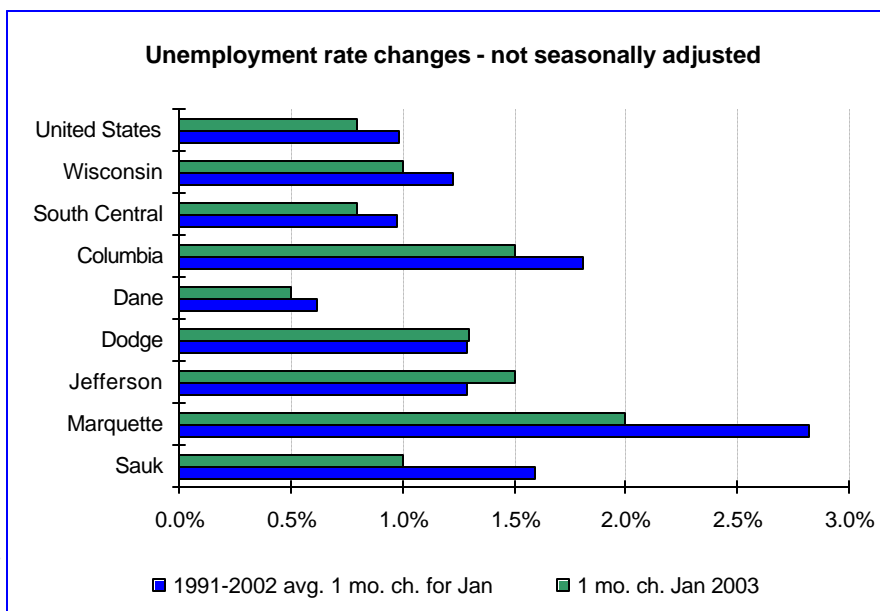
current economic activity compared to pre-recession levels. The only figure that will remain comparable over time is the "Total jobs all industries" figure, and even that figure will be

revised for the same reasons that the labor force and unemployment figures are revised (see page 1).

Commuting Data

The Census Bureau may be the most reliable, comprehensive source of commuting data available, so just-released figures have been eagerly awaited. High wages and low unemployment rates (at the time of the Census) allowed almost 95 percent of working Dane County residents to find work within the county, while nearly 48

percent of Columbia County's working residents left for work. About a third of Columbia County jobs were filled by workers from other counties, compared to 15 percent of Dane's jobs.



Payroll employment estimates - not seasonally adjusted												
	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries**	2,716,700	-70,000	-2,600	416,700	-14,600	1,900	20,700	-280	240	290,300	-11,500	1,730
Const., min'g & nat. resources	110,900	-11,100	-960	18,200	-2,500	-510	990	-140	50	12,500	-1,890	-510
Manufacturing	520,600	-1,220	-10,900	61,400	-120	310	4,800	-30	-40	28,900	350	2,000
Trade (wholesale & retail)	422,600	-15,700	-7,700	59,700	-4,000	-2,100	3,000	-110	-170	40,300	-3,500	-1,610
Transportation & utilities	103,700	-2,200	970	10,800	-560	-20	630	-70	-30	31,000	50	500
Financial activities	153,000	-440	1,610	28,500	310	580	640	110	80	24,500	90	410
Education & health services	357,000	-3,900	6,700	43,300	-30	1,220	2,600	20	0	28,600	70	1,080
Leisure & hospitality	224,800	-6,500	3,800	37,900	-870	2,900	2,300	90	390	22,700	-800	200
Info, prof., & other services	422,200	-5,100	10,700	66,200	-940	1,740	1,930	-40	-80	54,400	-330	2,700
Government	401,900	-23,700	-6,800	90,600	-5,900	-2,200	3,800	-110	50	71,100	-5,200	-2,600

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Jan 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries**	32,400	-860	-290	34,900	-1,200	-530	3,700	-190	120	34,800	-550	630
Private sector	27,000	-770	-420	30,800	-1,020	-550	2,900	-150	80	29,300	-270	460
Const., min'g & nat. resources	1,940	-200	20	1,090	-120	0	100	-40	-50	1,540	-140	-20
Manufacturing	10,300	-200	-560	9,800	-210	-660	1,300	0	90	6,300	-30	-510
Trade (wholesale & retail)	3,900	-10	-140	6,000	-20	240	450	0	50	6,000	-310	-500
Transportation & utilities	940	-70	-30	1,170	-80	-60	40	-20	-10	770	-30	40
Financial activities	710	-40	-30	960	10	50	120	-10	0	1,500	160	50
Education & health services	4,200	130	250	4,400	-200	-140	290	-20	0	3,300	-10	40
Leisure & hospitality	2,400	-140	200	3,000	-180	120	370	-60	50	7,200	210	1,970
Info, prof., & other services	2,700	-240	-130	4,300	-210	-110	210	-10	-40	2,700	-120	-620
Government	5,400	-90	130	4,100	-180	20	830	-30	40	5,500	-290	170

**Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary.
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